(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Selective credit control against cotton trade

2337. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the MInister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that selective credit control is in existence against cotton trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bank advances against cotton and kapas are at present covered by selective credit control provisions. Under the selective credit control policy, the quantum of credit is controlled by fixing the minimum margin for lending and ceilings on the levels of credit. The policy in this regard is modified from time to time by RBI in such a manner as is considered appropriate to meet particular situations or to achieve the desired directional flow of credit. The minimum margins are set at 75 percent for "Others" (mainly trade) and 60 per cent against warehouse receipts. The level of credit ceiling has been fixed at 85 percent of the peak level of credit maintained by the party in any of the three years ended 1990-91 (November-October). These advances attract an interest of 18 per cent minimum effective from October 9, 1992. Mills continue to be outside the purview of selective credit control.

Customs duty collected from Madras Airport

2338. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total customs duty collected from the passengers arriving at Madras Airport during the year 1991-92;

(b) what are the major items of goods for which the customs duty was collected; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow the passengers to bring foreign goods for their own use without customs duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) During 1991-92, total customs duty of Rs. 22.05 crores was collected from the passengers arriving at Madras Airport.

(b) Major items are T.V., VCR, VCP, Radio Cassette Recorder, Photocopier and miscellaneous goods like Cameras, Calculators, Walkman, Colour film Rolls etc.

(c) There is already a provision for import of foreign goods by the passengers for their own use without payment of customs duty, upto a value of Rs. 3000/-, under Rule 3 of Baggage Rules, 1978.

Restrictions on Media

2339. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 6th November, 1992 captioned "Rao (P. M.) unhappy over curbs on Media" imposed by certain Ministries/Departments of Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for restricting free flow of information to the print and electronic media; and

(c) what steps his Ministry have taken, so far, to change the old ways of dealing with the Press and for ensuring right of the Press of access to the relevant information in all parts of the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item. A meeting was convened in which, the need for greater and regular flow of Government information to media was emphasised. There was no discussion on curbs over Media as there are no such curbs.

(c) It has always been an endeavour of the Government to make adequate and